Mandeville Hall, Tan House Lane, Burwell, CB25 0AR

CBP Forum Minutes 07/07/2026 at 7:30pm

Members: Burwell Parish Council, BEAT, Wild Burwell, Wicken Fen, Spring Close & Priory Meadow Mgt Group
Objectives:

- To deliver on the Climate Change, Biodiversity and Pollution Action Plans as agreed by Burwell Parish Council and to facilitate networking between relevant groups and stakeholders around the village to achieve this.
- Prevent or minimise pollution to air, water and land
- Protect and enhance the quality, extent and accessibility of Burwell's 'green infrastructure' (open spaces, trees, waterways and natural environment) for people and biodiversity.

Vision

- For Burwell Parish Council to become carbon neutral by 2030
- To have a plan to manage climate emergencies
- To support the reduction of Burwell's carbon footprint, increase biodiversity and access to green spaces.

Present: Geraldine Tate, Paul Webb, Sara Phipps, Simon Hunt, Hazel Barber, Ben Vinten, John Damian, Ryan Noyes, Martin O'Leary, Jim Perry, Nicola Hallows, Katherine Hyett (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Liz Swift, Lea Dodds, John Hughes, Pat Cleary
2. **Approval of the minutes of 3rd March 2026 – the minutes were approved and signed**
3. **Matters arising**

Topic	Matter Arising	Action Required	Responsible
Historic England Visit	Follow-up required	Chase Historic England. Katherine Hyett confirmed that a report from Historic England had been chased several times. On the issue of pollution, BEAT spoke about how proactive Charlotte Cane had been and that may support follow up. There was also some discussion about how we get the BESS developers to meet their screening conditions. It was suggested some joint responses may be useful.	KH
Educational Programme	Waste workshop	This is in progress and is being arranged for the 17th August. Volunteers are needed. Nicky Hallows will check her availability.	KH Action: NH
Educational Programme	Bioblitz event – Now called 'Discover Nature'.	Arranged for the 19th July. Risk assessment in place. Please publicise the event – all https://www.facebook.com/events/2998239967044477	Wild Burwell Action all
Educational Programme	Ecology talk	Contact speaker – asked Steve Boreham (Katherine Hyett will follow up)	Nicola Hallows/KH
Educational Programme	Earth Café (last quarter of the year	Arrange event Paul Webb - SSECAM	Paul Webb/ SSECAM
PC Energy Assets	Paul Webb to transfer access to web app for GMH solar Panels to the Clerk	Sent by Clerk 19/3/2026. PW to download the SMA energy app: https://www.sma.de/en/products/apps-software/sma-energy-app Enter your email and do forgot password if you don't have it. Change the account details to the burwellpc email address.	Paul Webb Move to LBF

4. **Projects Update**
    a) **Spring Close chalk stream**
        - The Clerk confirmed that the appropriate insurance is in place to enable vegetation clearance works within the watercourse. Representatives from Wild Burwell outlined their work to improve the flow of the stream while minimising disturbance to wildlife and the surrounding ecosystem.
        - The Clerk reported an update from the Cambridgeshire County Council Flood Risk Manager, who advised that: "We heard back from the Environment Agency this week to advise that Anglian Water have completed a CCTV survey of their system. They indicate there are no cross-connections or defects identified in their system, so I've now contacted our Highways team again to see if they can carry out a similar survey of the highway drainage system." The Clerk has also contacted Dave Thomas at Highways to follow up on this matter, with an email sent on 6 July 2026.
        - Paul Webb advised that SSECAM is working with a number of neighbouring villages to begin water sampling and collate baseline data, which could be shared with Anglian Water and the Environment Agency. Nicola Hallows offered to prepare a paper summarising the findings, and Dr Steve Boreham is investigating the location of water abstraction licences in response to concerns that reduced water flows are contributing to increased vegetation growth within the watercourse.

    b) **Renewable energy projects around Burwell**

    BEAT (Burwell Energy Awareness Team) representatives were welcomed to their first meeting with the Council and provided an overview of their work.
    BEAT was established in September and has been reviewing energy infrastructure planning applications to better understand their status and the planning process. Simon Hunt explained that the group initially focused on Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and has examined whether Local Planning Authorities have sufficient powers to regulate such developments. The group has reviewed documentation for Weirs Drove BESS using a traffic light system to assess the quality and completeness of the information provided, with over 50% of the questions assessed remaining rated as red, indicating significant concerns. BEAT is seeking to work collaboratively with organisations, including East Cambridgeshire District Council's Planning Department. The group raised concerns regarding the BESS development at Weirs Drove, stating that the bunding has not been constructed in accordance with the approved design. It was noted that, in the event of a fire, contaminated water could potentially enter the Weirs. Enforcement action is currently being taken.

    BEAT also highlighted concerns relating to the proposed Hightown Drove BESS development. While acknowledging that the proposals represent an improvement, the group considers that the developers remain overly optimistic regarding safety measures. Concerns raised included the potential for toxic gas plumes, assumptions made about container fires, insufficient consideration of cyber-attacks, environmental pollution, and noise impacts. Questions were also raised about accountability should a significant incident occur.

    BEAT asked about baseline environmental data being collected for areas surrounding BESS developments to enable future monitoring. Nicky Hallows advised that local water quality is currently generally good, with agricultural nitrate runoff being the principal issue, and suggested that establishing environmental baseline data could be beneficial.

The Nature Recovery Plan was mentioned at this point and the use of Parish Online. Katherine Hyett mentioned it may be worth putting BEAT in touch with a Duxford Councillor who had been working on this.

It was also noted that an application has been submitted for an extension at Breach Farm.

c) **Programme of educational activities**
   - Following correspondence from the Church, **it was agreed to recommend to Council that a public viewing of the National Emergency Briefing be held at Gardiner Memorial Hall.**
   - It was noted that the proposed community curry night, which will focus on raising awareness of food waste, could potentially be coordinated with the Beer Festival planned for October. Katherine Hyett is following up on this proposal.
   - An update was provided on the review of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (CBP) Biodiversity and Climate Change Plans, including the Net Zero 2030 target. A meeting has been arranged to discuss these matters further.

5. Forum Community Updates:

a) Wild Burwell – no further update
b) Spring Close/Priory Meadow Management Group – new grass cutting regime is working quite well although there is long grass around the new trees so this may need reconsidering. It was noted that due to the heatwave trees are suffering all around the village. Volunteers are needed to water trees in Priory meadow. Spring Close bench is going in place shortly.
c) Pauline's Swamp –The open day is on 6th September.
d) National Trust/Wicken Fen – KH provided a brief update from John Hughes but also noted that he had offered to cut Paulines Swamp. This is already in the PC grass cutting contract.
e) Repair/Swish café – There may be a second round of grants/donations. Repair Café is on 4th October and Swish café on 19th October.

6. Correspondence

a) The group considered correspondence regarding the Burwell Lode and Swaffham Internal Drainage Board. Katherine Hyett reported that Liz Swift had contacted the District Councillors and David Brown had contacted the Internal Drainage Board. It was confirmed that responsibility for the watercourse rests with the Environment Agency, and a response is currently awaited. Concerns were raised about dredging and the potential environmental damage it may cause. It was agreed that further information is required to understand the Environment Agency's maintenance responsibilities for the watercourse and to establish what maintenance, if any, is necessary.
b) The group considered correspondence relating to sewage infrastructure in Burwell. Geraldine Tate confirmed that Burwell Parish Council had previously raised concerns about sewage capacity during consultation on the Millstone Park development and had been advised that there was sufficient capacity within the existing network. Simon Hunt advised that sewer capacity assessments are typically undertaken during the summer rather than the winter, when the system is likely to experience greater demand. He suggested that a winter stress test would provide a more accurate assessment of network capacity and confirmed that he has raised this matter with the County Councillor.

c) It was noted that a new SLCC-e website has been launched to support Parish Councils with Climate change: https://www.slcc-e.co.uk/

7. **Any other business**
None

8. **Date of next meeting: 1st September 2026**

Meeting closed 20:47

Signed **Dated**